considerations, domestic requirements socio-cultural heritage, environmental and ecological reasons. Changes in Policy are carried-out wherever required to further achieve the above objectives in the larger public interest.

Proposal to stop keeping buffer stock of rubber

7352. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a consequence of GATT treaty government have stopped or propose to stop the system of keeping buffer stock of rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to stop declaration of benchmark price for natural rubber;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the scheme to help rubber farmers when price of rubber falls steeply?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A Buffer Stocking scheme is in operation since 1986 with a view to ensure remunerative price to the rubber growers and making available natural rubber to the user industry at a reasonable price. This scheme also provides for market intervention by the Government agencies at appropriate time to ensure the above objectives. There is no proposal to immediately withdraw the scheme.

Seminar Organised by ASSOCHAM

7353. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASSOCHAM (Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry) recently organised a Seminar on "Trade and investment opportunities in southeast Asia', which was inaugurated by the Minister of Commerce as per report Published in the Hindustan Times dated 25th May, 1994;

(b) what are the details of the recommendations made at the above Seminar indicating proposals mooted regarding Indian value addition units in Southeast Asia; and

(c) what were the total imports from these countries to India during 1987-88 in US dollars as against exports from India and figures of 1993-94 of India's exports as against imports from Southeast Asian countries to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. A Seminar on "Trade and Investment Opportunities in South East Asia" was organised by ASSOCHAM on 24th May, 1994 in New Delhi to discuss the report of ASSOCHAM business mission to Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

(b) Following are some of the major suggestions made in the course of the Seminar to promote trade and investment opportunities with Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia:—

—Holding of commodity specific missions, exhibitions and technical seminars by Indian businessmen to popularise India's products and brand names in Vietnam, besides offering realistic prices and timely delivery of goods.

—Revision of Indian laws to make them more investor friendly.

—Establishing direct business contacts by Indian businessmen with Malaysian counter-parts.

—Effective functioning of Joint Commission and Joint Business Council to solve the existing trade issues with Indonesia.

—A suggestions was also made to Indian firms to take the benefit of Common Effective preferential Tariff (CEPT) system which existed in ASEAN countries which could enable foreign investors to enjoy a tariff concession ASEAN countries if the finished product contained a minimum 40% local content. Indian industr was also advised to concentrate on Indo-China region which offers tremendous potential for trade and investment.

(c) Total imports from and exports to southeast Asian countries i.e. Vietnam, and ASEAN countris during 1987-88 and 1393-94 (April-February) were as under:

(In U&S Million)

	Imports	Exports
1987-88 . . .	1090.93	385.29
1993 -94 (Apr.—Feb.) . .	958.94	1484.33

Demand of Indian mangoes in foreign countries

7354. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for Indian mangoes in foreign countries has increased.

(b) if so, the quantity and quality of mangoes likely to be exported during the year; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE) (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the year 1994-95, the estimated exports of 'A' grade mangoes like Alphanso, Kesar, Totapuri, Banganpalli, Dushari etc. is likely to be 30000 metric tons and would earn an estimated foreign exchange equivalent of Rs. 50 crores.

Duty Free Import of Capital Goods

7355. DR. NAUNUHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are allowing duty-free import of capital goods against a high export obligation;

(b) if so. who have been the beneficiaries so far; and

(c) how much loss has occurred to the Exchequer due to this Policy during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) An adhoc exemption order under section 25(2) of the Customs Act has been issued granting exemption from Customs duty on capital goods, toolings and spares valued at approximately Rs. 333 crores to be imported by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited. The exemption is subject to the condition that M/s. Maruti Udyog Ltd. shall export 1,40,000 YE-2 Cars during the period of seven years commencing from 1st April, 1995. The approximate value of YE-2 Cars to be exported will be Rs. 2100 crores. In case of any shortfall in the export obligation fixed for each year, M/s. Maruti Udyog Limit